

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 39

By Capley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Winifred M. "Winnie" Breegle of Spring Hill.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Winifred M. "Winnie" Breegle; and

WHEREAS, Winnie Breegle was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a decorated veteran of World War II, Ms. Breegle was a first-year high school Latin, Spanish, and English teacher in Bloomingdale, Ohio, when she decided to enlist in the military and help the war effort; and

WHEREAS, upon enlistment in the United States Naval Reserve, Ms. Breegle was trained in communications and cryptology at Smith College and Mt. Holyoke College. Following her graduation, she was first stationed in Baltimore, Maryland, for most of a year and then sent to Washington, D.C., for the remainder of her military tenure; and

WHEREAS, as a U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer, World War II Cryptographer for the Navajo Code Talkers, Winnie Breegle was assigned the important task of delivering coded and decoded messages to the White House and other military establishments; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Breegle ended active duty on February 11, 1949, and was placed on inactive duty until 1976, when the Navajo code was no longer a secret; and

WHEREAS, upon her return to civilian life, Ms. Breegle resumed her career in education, teaching for fifty-five years at Bloomingdale High School, Lancaster High School, Circleville High School, and Gulf Coast State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Winnie Breegle enjoyed sixty years of marriage with her husband and fellow World War II veteran, George Breegle; the couple's blessed union produced two children, Gary and Bruce; four grandchildren, Betsy, Christy, Emily, and Ryan; and eight great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Breegle made her home in Tennessee in 2018, when she was displaced from her longtime home in Panama City, Florida, by Hurricane Michael; and

WHEREAS, she was a charter member of the Women's Military Memorial at the entrance to the Arlington Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Winnie Breegle leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens, a courageous Naval Intelligence Officer who played a key role in ensuring the safety and success of her fellow soldiers and citizens during World War II; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Winifred M. "Winnie" Breegle, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Breegle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.